

## *The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina*

Jocelyn Boyd  
Chief Clerk/Administrator  
Phone: (803) 896-5133  
Fax: (803) 896-5246

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Comer H. "Randy" Randall, Third District  
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Justin T. Williams, Sixth District  
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Florence P. Belser, Second District  
Thomas J. "Tom" Ervin, Fourth District  
Swain E. Whitfield, Fifth District  
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Seventh District

Clerk's Office  
Phone: (803) 896-5100  
Fax: (803) 896-5199

March 25, 2019

Waymon Mumford, Chairman  
Florence County Council  
180 North Irby Street MSC-G  
Florence, South Carolina 29501

Dear Mr. Mumford:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letters of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letters of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

- Docket No. 2018-318-E - Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow Docket No. 2018-319-E at the link at this link:: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116871>.

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Easterling".

Deborah Easterling  
Executive Assistant

c: Parties of Record



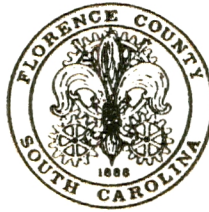
Waymon Mumford  
District 7  
Chairman

Willard Dorriety, Jr.  
District 9  
Vice-Chairman

Mitchell Kirby  
District 4  
Secretary/Chaplain

K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr.  
County Administrator

Connie Y. Haselden  
Clerk to Council



## FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Council Members

Alphonso Bradley  
District 3

James T. Schofield  
District 8

Roger M. Poston  
District 2

Kent C. Caudle  
District 5

Jason M. Springs  
District 1

H. Steven DeBerry, IV  
District 6

March 21, 2019

Comer H. "Randy" Randall, Chairman  
Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Dear Mr. Randall:

On behalf of the citizens of Florence County and the Great State of South Carolina, I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully request your thoughtful consideration of a matter that is of utmost importance to the future viability of our region.

In recent years several incidents of nature have created many issues for our residents, including damages sustained from flooding. One of the groups of our citizens hit hardest is the farming industry. As additional information specific to the farm industry, I have attached a copy of the letter sent to Governor McMaster regarding the impact these events of nature have created for our area farmers, as well as a copy of a letter to Duke Energy from the SC Farm Bureau.

County Council is aware that a public hearing has been scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> in our Council Chambers for citizens to voice concerns regarding the proposed rate increase by Duke Energy. We urge you to consider the impact this will have on farmers and many other residents that will not only experience additional usage rate charges but for those with multiple meters, we are of the understanding that the proposed increase will triple those costs. While this will have a huge impact on costs to farmers it will also create a financial hardship on small businesses and individuals with multiple meters.

We ask that as you contemplate the facts surrounding this request for an increase that you consider the negative impact such an action will have on our citizens. We appreciate your consideration of this request and please don't hesitate to call on us if we may be of service to you.

Sincerely,

  
Waymon Mumford, Chairman  
Florence County Council

Enclosure

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 25 2019**

**PSC SC  
MAIL / DMS**



**Waymon Mumford**  
**District 7**  
**Chairman**

**Willard Dorriety, Jr.**  
**District 9**  
**Vice-Chairman**

**Mitchell Kirby**  
**District 4**  
**Secretary/Chaplain**

**K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr.**  
**County Administrator**

**Connie Y. Haselden**  
**Clerk to Council**



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**District 1**

**H. Steven DeBerry, IV**  
**District 6**

February 21, 2019

The Honorable Henry McMaster  
 Governor of South Carolina  
 1100 Gervais Street  
 Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

On behalf of the citizens of Florence County and the Great State of South Carolina, I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully request your thoughtful consideration of a matter that is of utmost importance to the future viability of our region.

The farmers in Florence County and the Pee Dee region have experienced catastrophic events in the last three out of four years, such as the flood of 2015, Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and hurricanes Florence and Michael in 2018. These devastating events precipitate the need for prudent deliberation and careful scrutiny of all resources available for the recovery of our ag community.

As you are well aware, agriculture is extremely important to our region and the State. Based on an assessment report from Clemson Cooperative Extension (a copy of which is enclosed), the estimated total losses to the farm community due to loss of yield is nearly \$124 million. This report indicates that the largest estimated loss of \$24 million is in Florence County.

Additionally, the November crop production report for South Carolina published by NASS indicates an increase of 26,000 acres abandoned since September's report, an estimated loss of \$17.8 million resulting in a combined loss of \$142 million.

A major impact of the hurricanes that is still unknown is quality losses which affect the price received and the yield due to delayed harvest, caused by the hurricanes and flooding. According to the Florence County Farm Bureau, there are farmers holding damaged crops and these farmers have experienced significant yield losses placing them in financial hardship. If you assume a 10% loss for the impacted crops, the result would be an estimated \$60 million. If you combine this loss with the \$142 million, this will result in an estimated total loss of \$202 million for agriculture in South Carolina. This does not include any losses experienced by our forestry or infrastructure, which could push the total loss closer to \$205 million.

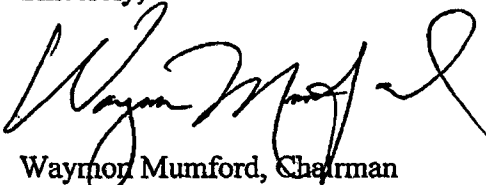


Letter to Governor McMaster  
February 22, 2019  
Page 2.

In anticipation of pending HUD allocations, please consider all options that become available to the citizens of our great State. It is my understanding that Congress has or will appropriate funding for disaster relief. I would encourage you to consider the plight of the farmer and release any additional money to agriculture so that farmers can survive these catastrophic events and help to sustain our economy.

Thank you for your sagacious leadership and contemplation of this very worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely,



Waymon Mumford, Chairman  
Florence County Council

Enclosure

Cc: U. S. Congressional Delegation  
Florence County Legislative Delegation  
Florence County Council Members  
K.G. Rusty Smith, Jr., County Administrator  
Mr. Harry Ott, South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation President, CEO  
The Honorable Hugh E. Weathers, SC Department of Agriculture, Commissioner



# CLEMSON<sup>®</sup>

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

### Estimated Damage to South Carolina Agriculture from Hurricanes Florence and Michael

Clemson University Cooperative Extension

November 30, 2018

The assessment of agricultural damage from hurricanes Florence and Michael is ongoing. Hurricane Florence largely affected the Pee Dee production region of the state and included some Midland counties, particularly related to vegetables. Hurricane Michael impacted the Midlands and Lowcountry and part of the Pee Dee again.

Estimated losses are greatest for cotton followed by fruits and vegetables, soybeans and peanuts. The loss value is estimated using National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) yield projections in September before hurricane Florence made landfall and the prices at the time. The Market Facilitation Program potential payment for soybeans is included since it is based on production. The combined total losses estimated due to loss of yield is nearly \$124 million. The November crop production report for South Carolina published by NASS shows an increase of 26,000 acres abandoned since September's report. assumed to be due to the hurricanes. The loss on the abandoned acres is assumed due to the hurricanes and is estimated to total \$17.8 million. Combining these totals results in \$142 million loss.

Table 1: Estimated Losses Due to Yields Impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael

Crop	Impacted Acres	Value per Acre	% Loss	Loss Value
Corn	178,508	\$533	1%	\$951,448
Cotton	308,167	\$757	30%	\$69,984,726
Peanuts	87,503	\$855	10%	\$7,481,507
Soybeans	355,554	\$320	10%	\$11,377,728
Fruit & Vegetables	4,260			\$30,000,000
Pecans	614	\$7,455	40%	\$1,830,948
Tobacco	600	\$3,600	100%	\$2,160,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>935,206</b>			<b>\$123,786,356</b>

Table 2: Estimated Loss of Increased Abandoned Acreage

Crop	Acres	Value per Acre	Loss Value
Cotton	18,000	\$757	\$13,626,000
Peanuts	3,000	\$855	\$2,565,000
Soybeans	5,000	\$320	\$1,600,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,000</b>		<b>\$17,791,000</b>

A major impact of the hurricanes that is still unknown is quality losses which affects the price received and the yield due to harvest being delayed. Assuming a 10% loss for the impacted crops, the result is an estimated \$60 million loss for a total of \$202 million in loss value for South Carolina agriculture. Losses to infrastructure or forestry are not included in the estimates but if included the total loss will reach \$205 million. Updates will be made as more information becomes available.

\*Prepared by Dr. Nathan Smith, Dr. Adam Kantrovich, Scott Mickey with contributions from Agronomy Team Extension Agents.

#### SANDHILL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

900 Clemson Road, Columbia, S.C. 29229 P 803-788-5700 F 803-736-4418 <http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec>

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.



Sumter	\$ 4,594,799
Williamsburg	\$ 18,280,246
	\$ 118,146,453

**Nathan B. Smith, PhD CLEMSON UNIVERSITY**

Extension Professor and Agribusiness Program Team Leader

Department of Agricultural Sciences

Sandhill Research and Education Center

803.788.5700 Phone

229.392.4938 Mobile

[nathan5@clemson.edu](mailto:nathan5@clemson.edu)

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Florence County Farm Bureau  
102 Redbud Lane  
Florence, South Carolina 29504  
Telephone 843.669.3173 • Fax 843.669.3366

March 13, 2019

Mrs. Lynn Good, President and CEO  
Duke Energy  
526 South Church Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202

- Certified Letter -

Dear Mrs. Good,

Florence County farmers are concerned to hear about your request for rate increases and additional meter charges. Florence County Farm Bureau would like to know how many agriculture meters there are in Duke Energy Progress territory that will be affected by the new base rate meter charge. We would also like to know the amount of income that will be generated from agricultural enterprises as a result of the fee increase. A farming operation will typically have many meters, quite unlike the standard home where there is only one meter. We do ask that you provide a prompt response since the Public Service Commission will be meeting on April 1, 2019.

For three out of four years, farmers in the Pee Dee Region and much of the state, have experienced devastating harvest conditions. These included the flood of 2015, Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and more recently the two hurricanes in 2018, Florence and Michael. As if the two hurricanes were not bad enough, the rain through the 2018 harvest season forced farmers to leave crops in the fields with no hope of harvesting. Florence County Farmers have experienced 23.8 million dollars in economic losses while estimates show that the Pee Dee Region has experienced over 118 million dollars in economic losses for the 2018 growing season. This results in 2018 being one of the worst production years on record for farmers in our region.

As a farmer organization that represents all of agriculture, we are concerned that the fee that you are requesting will have a detrimental impact on our farmers, and when you consider the state of the rural economy, the timing of this increase is particularly harmful.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Anthony Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style.

James Anthony Ward, President  
Florence County Farm Bureau

CC: Chairman Comer H. Randall, SC Public Service Commission  
South Carolina Public Service Commission Commissioners:  
Commissioner, G. O'Neal Hamilton  
Commissioner, John E. Howard  
Commissioner, Thomas J. Ervin  
Commissioner, Justin T. Williams



South Carolina Public Service Commission Commissioners (continued):

Commissioner, Swain E. Whitfield

Commissioner, Elliott F. Elam, Jr.

Florence County Council:

Mr. Jason Springs,

Mr. Roger M. Poston

Mr. Alphonso Bradley

Chaplain Mitchell Kirby

Mr. Kent C. Caudle

Mr. H. Steven DeBerry, IV

Reverend Waymon Mumford

Mr. James Schofield

Mr. Willard Dorriety, Jr.

Florence County Senate and House Delegation:

Senator Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.

Senator Kevin L. Johnson

Senator Ronnie A. Sabb

Senator Kent M. Williams

Representative Terry Alexander

Representative Wallace H. Jordan

Representative Roger K. Kirby

Representative Phillip D. Lowe

Representative Robert Q. Williams

Representative Russell L. Ott

Commissioner Hugh Weathers, South Carolina Department of Agriculture

President Harry Ott, South Carolina Farm Bureau

Mr. Gary Spires, Director, Government Relations, South Carolina Farm Bureau